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11. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 [comprising the step of adding to the solution the polymeric carrier molecule coupled to] wherein the indicator molecule is a pH-responsive indicator molecule.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 11 [comprising the step of adding to the solution the polymeric carrier molecule coupled to a] wherein the pH-responsive indicator molecule is selected from a group consisting of parosoaniline, New Fuchsin, and a succinimidyl ester.

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13. (Amended) A composition for precipitating nucleic acids, the composition comprising:

a carrier molecule capable of co-precipitating from an aqueous solution with a nucleic acid molecule, the aqueous solution comprising an amount of a salt and an amount of an alcohol sufficient to cause the nucleic acid to precipitate from the solution; and

an indicator molecule coupled to the carrier molecule

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed July 22, 1997, the Examiner in charge of the application rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and allowed Claims 13-24. In view of the amendments noted above and the arguments presented herein, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the merits of this patent application. Each ground of rejection is considered separately below.